

Laboratory support team secures sensitive information and OPSEC award

by Timothy Anderl, AFRL Headquarters

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — Three members of the Air Force Research Laboratory headquarters' Operations and Support Directorate were recently recognized for their hard work and dedication when they received the Air Force Materiel Command 1999 Annual National Operations Security Award (OPSEC).

Theresa Kopa, Mary McAfee and Mark Rogers of the Security Program Management and Integration office received the OPSEC award for Program of the Year in the organizational category. The team also received a nomination for the Air Force 1999 National OPSEC Organizational Achievement Award.

The OPSEC Team, as well as their peers in the Operations and Support Directorate at the lab, are responsible for the oversight, integration and execution of national security policy to protect classified and sensitive information for the headquarters, nine separate technology directorates and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The level of OPSEC applied in these areas of research, development, test and evaluation directly impacts the development of technologies for the DoD warfighter.

During the period of October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1999, these individuals were instrumental in the identification of critical information indicators and the execution of security countermeasures during the Kosovo conflict as part of AFRL's Crisis Action Team. The team advised the lab of vulnerabilities in its ongoing operations, recommending immediate action measures to secure communications and create a buffer of protection for critical information during AFRL's support to Operation Allied Force.

In addition, the Operations and Support Directorate was



THE WINNING TEAM — Three members of the Operations and Support Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory receive the AFMC 1999 Annual National Operations Security Award. Major General Richard Paul presented Theresa Kopa, left, Mary McAfee and Mark Rogers the award at his weekly staff meeting.

also responsible for a 60 percent increase in completion of OPSEC training by AFRL program managers over a seven-month period. The team, in coordination with the AFRL Public Affairs Office, also created a new system for public release, and clearing materials and web pages.

The National Operations Security Awards Program provides non-monetary awards to U.S. Government and supporting contractor organizations in recognition of excellence in the field of Operations Security, which is assigned to or supporting a national security mission. @